Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I think one was placed.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—What about the others?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Under the rules it is not necessary to place these before the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—On account of the discussions and resolutions passed by this House, it has become an accepted convention.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It was not necessary.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I do not know about the correctness or otherwise of the grant. I am rather insisting upon a right of the House because, when a paper like this is placed before the House, that may finally go from the purview of this Council. There is the Standing Finance Committee of this House. At least their criticism may be heard before the Diwan finally passes orders. These may have at least some criticism which may probably help the administration in disposing of a matter like that. It is in view of that that this House has been pressing for such a procedure and it has been more or less accepted. I only wanted to point out this.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—This expenditure was incurred in 1103. Government thought that it was not necessary to place it before the Committee.

President.—Wherever it is possible to obtain the advice of the Standing Finance Committee, steps are taken in that matter. But wherever the expenditure is of an emergent character, and there is not sufficient time to call a meeting of the Standing Finance Committee, such cases are treated as cases under section 16 (9). That is the rule that we follow. In all cases where it is possible to have a consultation with the Standing Finance Committee, we do it. I think in that connection Mr. Salem wrote to the President a letter, and I have forwarded it to the Government. He wanted to introduce a convention that all votable items of expenditure are to be placed before the Standing Finance Committee. Is not it?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes. We have sufficiently discussed that matter here. The Diwan promised that as far as possible it will be discussed prior to certifying it. As a matter of fact, we had one such discussion and it was certified and we had the advantage of discussing it and having full information.

President.—That is the rule also. Wherever possible.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Whatever convention we are establishing we see that it is acted up to.

Supplementary Grants.

(1) *XXIX-3-F-Stone-ware Factory—Other charges—Rs. 6,288.*

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 6,288 under XXIX—3—F—

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Stone-ware Factory—Other charges. This grant is for the purpose of providing ourselves with funds to write off the cost of shortage of 1,205 tons of firewood collected at the Potteries during the year 1099 and 1100. This fuel was collected for the purpose of running the Government Stone-ware Factory in 1101. But at the close of 1100 the policy changed and the then Pottery Expert Mr. Balappa was sent away. It was advantageous to run the factory on a very small and limited scale. The fuel was then found to be unnecessary. Attempts were made to dispose of the stock. But it was not easy to dispose of it, because of the high price which resulted when calculations were based on our book value. Our calculations of weight were based on measuremet—68 cubic feet per ton. People wanted to know exactly what they were getting and a price insisted on, measured by weight. The fuel was in our yards for three years in an exposed condition and has naturally deteriorated. Further when they were originally started, these were in a green state and had become dried and lighter. On account of these reasons, we found a shortage of 1,205 tons, when we compared the tonnage arrived at by measurement with that arrived at by weight. For the purpose of writing off this difference, we require a sum of Rs. 6,288 which I now request the House to pass.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—May I know at what rate you collected and what was the offer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The collection charges were Rs. 5—1—6 per ton.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—And what was the offer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Tata Oil Mills purchased from us 530 tons at Rs. 6 per ton. But that was on weighment.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—What difference does it make?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—About 50 per cent. But you see, you should realise that we are comparing the quantity of fuel by two entirely different methods of measurement. The collection was made and paid for on a measurement basis, but it was disposed of by actual weight. There is, in this case, bound to be certain difference. Further the fuel was exposed to sun and rain for three years.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What would have been the difference in 1101?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I think the difference would have also been about the same in 1101. In 1102 we weighed and we found that the difference was about 50 per cent.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—May I know, whether it is only for the purpose of adjustment?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon— Yes.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—This money has been spent.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The Chief Engineer says that attempts were made to dispose of this fuel immediately after the policy changed. What are the attempts made to dispose it of?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We published our intention to dispose of the fuel in several issues of the Government Gazette.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—They say that it lasted for three years.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Cannot these be converted into smaller ones?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Tramway Engineer said that it would be disadvantageous to him to take our fuel and convert it for his boilers and so would not take them.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I have tabled other questions. May I know, when there was a difference of 50 per cent as now stated, whether any public man would take it? According to stack measurement it is all right. When the Government knew that there was a difference of 50 per cent, would any man take for less than that? Why should the stack measurement be insisted upon? Government wanted to sell it at stack measurement. The difference between the stack measurement and the weight measurement is 50 per cent. How could the Government expect that any public man would come and take it at such a loss? Why was it not reduced by 50 per cent? Naturally they would not take it. They pay their hard money.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I don't quite understand the point.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The point is, Government collected and Government have found no use themselves for the fuel. They attempted to sell it. Buyers came and they said we will take it provided it is on weighment. Government said we won't weigh and said take it by stack. Government found that between the stack and the weight measurement there will be a difference of 50 per cent per ton, and then do they expect any buyer to put his full money and buy 50 per cent? Why did the Government not sell it at the proper 50 per cent?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Government thought it most fair to sell it by weight.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—By weighment they were prepared to buy.

President.—The sale was by weighment.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The sale must be by weighment. You have sold and found this loss.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—When was the firewood sold?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Three years after.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In 1102 and 1101.

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Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—How does it happen that we are called upon to adjust it in 1104?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is only after the audited accounts come that we write off.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—So all this difference came on account of deterioration. Was it not anticipated?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Does it require much imagination to think that firewood will deteriorate if exposed to sun and rain?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Had the whole thing been used in 1101 there would have been no deterioration.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—May I know under whose charge was this firewood? I am referring to this matter, because, if in this case it has honestly deteriorated, in a case where firewood is exposed to the clemencies of the weather, it is a premium for an unscrupulous officer to say that firewood costing 10,000 became worth one thousand or less. This is Government property. We have a Government officer, who deteriorated valuable property and who has to take the responsibility. Would any private owner of property allow Rs. 6,000 to go like that? That is the question before the House.

Mr V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Perhaps, no.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—What I am trying to lay before the House is that there ought to be a searching enquiry into the whereabouts of deterioration of the firewood by the Government. Rs 6,000 can be utilised for ever so many uses.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We have already made necessary enquiries into the matter. The doubt expressed by the Member has already crossed my mind also.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I am very glad.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I went into the matter. After three years of exposure to sun and rain, all these differences on account of weight are possible.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Exposed for about three years!

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—It is just that that I am objecting.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They started collecting in 1099. So 3 years passed under Balappa himself. Then I got charge of the firewood. At once I started to sell it off. I was trying to get sombody to take it by stack measurement.

President.—Was there any foul play in this?

Mr. V. K Aravindaksha Menon.—I don't think.

Mr Thomas Manjuran.—I understand that in connection with the Trichur Museum Stores, a certain Government

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officer was penalised for allowing Government articles, articles bought by Government money, to deteriorate. It might be that he had all the goodwill in the world. Kuthampilly stuff was bought and allowed to deteriorate. That is the point.

President.—Allowed to deteriorate because no sale could be had. Your supply must be in proportion to the demand. You have collected Rs. 20,000 worth of cloth. So the Government penalised that officer. Bell-metal article could not yet be sold.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—That is not a parallel case with this at all.

President.—With due regard to the requirements, I say that officer is well responsible for that.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—That is not a parallel case with this. One is a metal which won't deteriorate and a man is penalised on that.

President.—What Mr. Thomas wants is that officers should not be allowed to use their own hands in regard to the use of Government money.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Quite so.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—This man bought and so he was penalised.

President.—That is with regard to the metal stuff. Nobody is answering for cloth.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The matter came up for discussion. The officer was made responsible, Government accepted the cut. We did not like the matter to be written off similarly in a question to write off Rs. 20,000. If the officers are found irresponsible, we will make them responsible. That is why the question was asked who was the responsible officer for the collection of this fuel.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That is Mr. Balappa.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Who gave him the fuel? Is it the Tramway Department?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Forest Department.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know why, when the fuel was measured originally after it was stocked in the Chalakkudi Potteries, the question of hullage was not taken into consideration?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The contractor was given only collection charges and this seigniorage went to the Forest Department. Seigniorage was given to the forests and the contractor was given the collection charges.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You say the hullage took place in your hands. The measurement of the several stacks was then made,

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when the fuel was considerably short. Could not the allowance be taken into consideration ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There was no necessity.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We have only paid for collection. The seigniorage is to the Forest Department.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know when the sales were complete ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In 1102.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—At the time of the preparation of the budget in 1102 you had no stock. Was it before ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—At the end of the year when you found that the Pottery was closed, why was it difficult to sell it ? Everybody goes to Chalakkudi to buy fuel.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Even at a cost of Rs. 1,000 it could not be sold.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We must sell it for what we can get.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Could not the Tramway have absorbed it ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—May I know under whose direct custody was this fuel put ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I do not catch the question.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Under whose direct custody was it ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In the year 1100 ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—All these three years.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In 1100 and 1101 under Mr. Balappa and after that it came under the Foreman.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—During the period of deterioration. Why was it allowed to deteriorate, that is the question?

President.—Of course we have got to show it. But we cannot take one ton out of this large quantity ? Any other information wanted in connection with this supplementary grant ? All these questions put by Mr. Salem have been answered.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Some more information is wanted. I ask whether the factory was closed three years ago.

President.—We were doing some sort of work. Large activities have been carried on.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Whether the fuel was collected after the cessation of the larger activities ? Was this fuel collected after Mr. Kuehenel left this place ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is after Mr. Kuehenel.

President.—No collection after Balappa left.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—Balappa was continuing the work of Kuehenel.

President.—They have answered all your points. To the presses we will come later on.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Of course in the light of these answers to the questions, and in view of the remarks that have been already made in this House, we don't think that we should oppose the grant.

Question proposed :—"*That an additional allotment of Rs. 6,288 under XXIX—3—F—Stoneware Factory—Other charges be granted*".

Question put and agreed to.

President.—The next demand is for Rs. 2,500 under Stoneware Factory.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 2,500 under XXIX—Stoneware Factory—Other charges. This money is required for the purchase of three tile presses in the Potteries for making Minton Tiles. That is one of the lines of manufacture in which we are getting very satisfactory results and tiles, you all know, is a commodity for which we would find a ready market. We have at present only one tile press on account of which the production is very small. Therefore, the cost of our tiles is high, and we are handicapped in that respect. If we buy three more tile presses, we will be able to manufacture more tiles per day and bring down the cost of production and we hope to market tiles at rates which are favourable. I, therefore, move that this additional grant be sanctioned.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What tiles ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Minton tiles.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Are they being manufactured by other manufacturers in the Cochin State ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—What is the cost price of having thousand tiles manufactured ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Rs. 40 per thousand. I have reduced it to Rs. 30.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—What is the offer ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The same type of tiles from Marsailles costs Rs. 45 per thousand.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—May I know whether your tile covers the same surface as the Marsailles tiles ?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Are they used for roofing ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Flooring tiles.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Have you got funds to work it on a commercial scale? I remember to have raised the questio

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during the budget discussion when a question for a grant for the Potteries came, 5,000 or Rs. 4,000, and it was said that the amount was required for the manufacture of minton tiles. I raised the question whether that Rs. 4,000 would be sufficient for marketing a commodity like tiles, and we were assured, I believe, that something could be done with Rs. 4,000 with the inevitable result that you now come for Rs. 2,500.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That was for machinery, Rs 2,500 for the manufacture.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I don't grudge any decent expenditure if we could get a return from that. Certainly I am against frittering away funds if they could not be effectively used. We have here again only Rs. 2,500. Assuming that there are these three tile presses, have you got the capital to work the factory on a commercial scale ?

President.—With these presses and the small work that we are carrying on we meet our cost and gain extra.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Have you got funds to carry on for the current year ? If you want additional machinery, you can have it. Will you starve the manufacture because you have not got funds ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In fact we have already starved by asking for only Rs. 4,000.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—That is exactly what I say. Your predecessor said that Rs.4,000 was enough to run a factory on which Rs. 4 lakhs was invested. Rs. 4,000 for machinery! .005 per cent of its capital for running expenses ! If you think that this is enough, that these three tile presses can be worked with the money you have got, you are welcome to do that. Unless proper use can be made, there is no use of wasting money Why not consider all these things ? My point is that.

President.—You must make allowance for this. The Chief Engineer was absent at the time of the budget discussion.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—But the records were there. I am not blaming anybody. If, as a matter of fact, he can work the Potteries and by it we can get some return, by all means, do so. We will be very glad. But before undertaking schemes little by little, would it not be much wiser to take a general view of the matter, of the requirements of the situation, ascertain what exactly be the needs to run it on an efficient and lucrative basis and then ask the Council for all that you want? Nobody would grudge it. Would it not be much wiser ?

President.—We must do some work there instead of closing.

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We must go on with our manufacture. We have already perfected. It is no use waiting.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Can you run these three presses with the additional money you wanted ?

President.—Till the year's end.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—That Rs. 2,500, does it not cover over-head charges or merely the pay of the work people ? Do you debit anything to other charges ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It includes over-head charges.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—What are the over-head charges ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is rather hard.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—It is a small thing.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The point is we must work it so long as it does not work at a loss.

Mr. A. B. Salem—Before we go on discussing it, may I know whether the Rs. 4,000 that we have budgetted during the Budget Session and this Rs. 2,500 that you are now asking, that is, 6,500, whether at the end of the year 1104 it will be possible to show in the Potteries over Rs. 6,000 income ?

President.—Rs. 2,500 is for machinery. That is capital expenditure.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Rs. 4,000 for mere charges for establishment. That is actual money that we are putting as working capital. A portion of it will go for the presses and the rest will go away.

I ask whether at the end of the year with this Rs. 2,500 further investment that we make, this will deteriorate to Rs. 200 or 300, that depreciation amount as well as the amount already spent we will be on the fair road to realise the money at the end of the year ?

President.—And more. That has been our experience hitherto. What we have spent we got and something extra also.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—For the last two years we were working at a profit. We got more than what we spent.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—What is the profit?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—A few thousand rupees.

President.—We don't want to spend any more.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In 1104 under disbursements Rs. 4000. In 1103 also Rs. 4,000.

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President.—What is the amount shown as receipts ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The income is Rs. 6,126 as against Rs. 4,000. It is for 1103.

President.—That is more than we spent. We are very particular upon that. We must be assured that we will get some profit.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is what I am saying. Rs. 6,126 was the budget estimate. By spending Rs. 2,500 more, would this be about Rs. 8,000 ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—In three months it is not possible.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—That is only depreciation of the machinery. I think the experiment deserves every encouragement.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—For taking out clay from the immediate neighbourhood. That is a very important matter. We cannot get clay within easy reach.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We have already perfected. There is every facility to get proper clay.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Have you made any investigation regarding the possibility of getting sufficient quantity of clay?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Oh, yes. That was ascertained before the Pottery came into existence.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I say that this experiment should be encouraged.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—May I know whether there is a sure market ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—What is the actual cost ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It will come to about 15 to 20 rupees.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Have you passed the experimental stage ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Are these presses different from the ordinary title presses ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They are different. They do not deal with plastic clay.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The question may be put.

Question proposed : "*That an additional allotment of Rs. 2,500 under XXIX—3 F=Stone-ware Factory—Other charges be granted.*"

Question put and agreed to.

2. *X=A—Criminal Court charges—Miscellaneous—. Cranganur—Rs. 50.*

President.—The next demand is for Rs. 50 by the Secretary to the Diwan.

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Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 50 under X-A—Criminal Court Charges—Miscellaneous—Cranganur. The original allotment was Rs. 30. This is found quite insufficient. Additional expenditure was necessitated by the fact that all Magistrates' Courts were supplied with copies of Penal Code and Evidence Act and the cost of supplying these to the Cranganur Court comes to Rs. 50. I think the House will be pleased to allow this.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The question may be put.

Question proposed: "*That an additional allotment of Rs. 50 under X A—Criminal Court charges—Miscellaneous—Cranganur be granted.*"

Question put and agreed to.

3. *X-A—Criminal Court Charges—T. A.—Cranganur—Rs. 15.*

President.—The next item is motion by the Secretary to the Diwan for an additional allotment of Rs. 15.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 15 under X-A—Criminal Court Charges—T. A.—Cranganur. The balance under that head is only Re. 1-4-0. An amount of Rs. 15 more will be required for the whole year.

Question proposed: "*That an additional allotment of Rs. 15 under X-A—Criminal Court charges—T. A.—Cranganur be granted.*"

Question put and agreed to.

4. *X-B—Law and Justice—Cranganur—Rs. 100.*

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 100 under X—Law and Justice—Cranganur. The original allotment of Rs 100 has almost run out, the balance being only Rs. 3--15—0. The District Munsiff, Cranganur, who is also the Sub-Magistrate there, had to make more circuits on account of certain criminal cases there that necessitated additional expenditure. An amount of Rs. 100 may be required for the balance of the year. I request the House will be pleased to vote for the grant.

Question proposed: "*That an additional allotment of Rs. 100 under X-B—Law and Justice—Cranganur be granted.*"

Question put and agreed to.

Bill to Amend the Cochin Penal Code.

President.—The Law Member will move to introduce a Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—Sir, I beg to introduce a Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code and request that the Bill be read in Council.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I second it.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—I do not think any speech is necessary. The amendments speak for themselves.

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